

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Noriyuki UMEZAWA, et al.
Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND FIXING DEVICE
Prior Appl. No.: 10/316,046
Prior Appl. Filing Date: December 11, 2002
Examiner: H. Ngo
Art Unit: 2852

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present Continuing Application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 1, delete the paragraph following "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" and replace this paragraph with the following in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121. A marked up version showing changes is attached:

This is a Continuation Application of Serial No. 10/316,046, filed December 11, 2002 which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/939,731, filed August 28, 2001, which is a Continuation Application of PCT Application No. PCT/JP99/07410, filed December 28, 1999, which was not published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-13 without prejudice or disclaimer.